W/A/S DEVOTIONAL

What are the Ways?

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

How do I Devote?

1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it.

Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

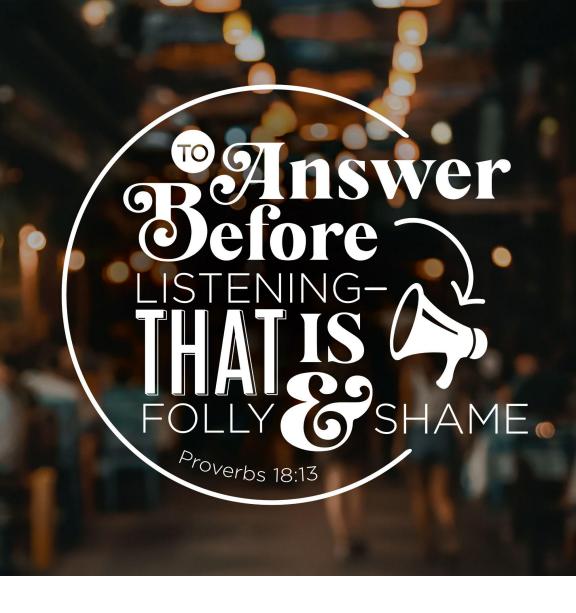
Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.



Sunday

Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention. Minimize the distractions and let go of the need to agree or disagree. Suspend your judgment and be curious to know more rather than jumping to conclusions. Above all, listen to understand.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Listen Generously* this week.



Monday

READ: Proverbs 18:12-13

THINK: When we think we have all the answers, there is no reason to listen to others. They should listen to us. The haughty have no reason to pause, but the humble Listen Generously. You never know how a person's beliefs can shape your faith and you never know if God has chosen the person in front of you to be His messenger.

PRAY: that God humbles you.

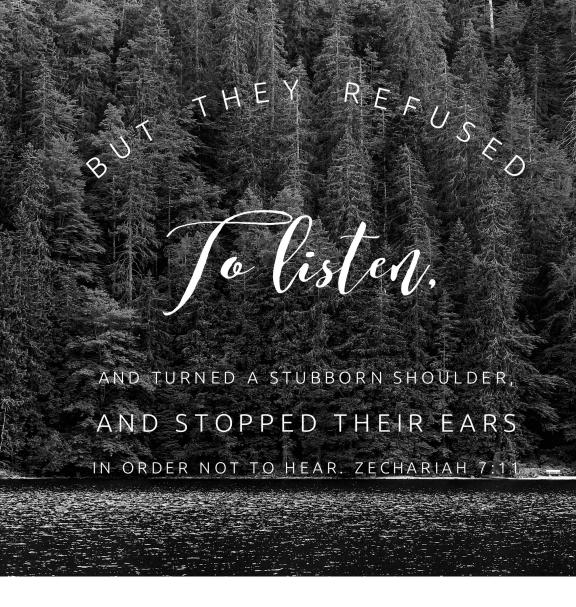


Tuesday

READ: Proverbs 17:3-4

THINK: It feels good to be trusted with a secret; but while we are called to *Listen Generously*, not all things are worth listening to. *Listening Generously* doesn't mean giving a friend space to badmouth their wife or space to spread the latest gossip. Have nothing to do with idle rumors. Instead, encourage one another to *Speak the Truth with Love* first.

PRAY: the Spirit would convict you of places you listen to gossip.

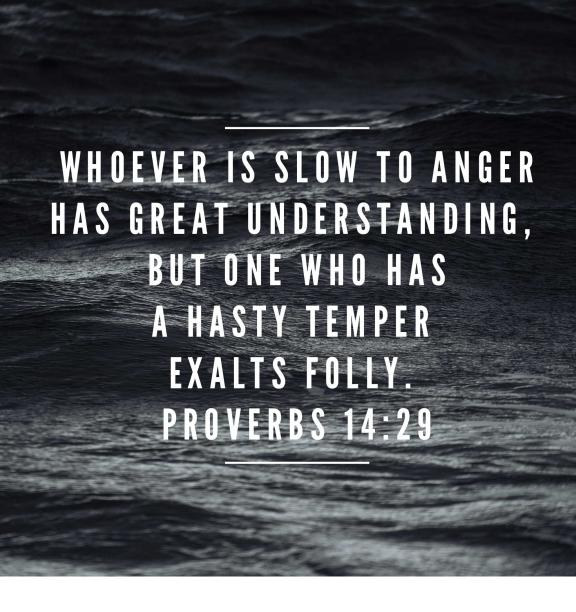


Wednesday

READ: Zechariah 7:8-14

THINK: God is not done talking, but often He chooses to speak through others. Prophets have always spoken for God but have rarely been listened to. We *Listen Generously* because the same Holy Spirit that lives in us lives in other Christians and you never know what truth or message they can bring to you.

PRAY: God would put someone in your life that you need to hear from.



Thursday

READ: Proverbs 14:29-30

THINK: Sometimes what gets in the way of Listening Generously is time. You have a lot going on; and it's difficult to spend the little free time you have listening to someone you disagree with. Understanding and wisdom, though, aren't gained by running to the next task. They are gained by taking the time to listen to others and hear from their faith, even if it is different from your own.

PRAY: that God would help you make margins in your life to *Listen Generously*.

AND THE LORD'S SERVANT
MUST NOT BE QUARRELSOME
BUT KINDLY TO EVERYONE

2 TIMOTHY 2:24

Friday

READ: 2 Timothy 2:22-26

THINK: There is a difference between a disagreement and a quarrel. Christians are called not to be quarrelsome; that doesn't mean we won't disagree. The difference is this: the quarrelsome listen to disprove and overcome. When we Listen Generously, we affirm that, though we disagree, we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

PRAY: that God would put fellow Christians in your life that you disagree with.

REALLY FULFILL THE ROYAL LAW ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." JAMES 2:8

Saturday

READ: James 2:1-9

THINK: Do not merely listen to those that sound educated or those that dress like they are worth listening to. Isn't it true that God often works in the least expected ways? Likewise, do not merely *Listen Generously* to adults. Think of Timothy and his struggle to be heard. When we *Listen Generously* without favoritism, we hear from those who are rarely given a voice.

PRAY: the Spirit would convict you of the ways you play favorites.